

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 8, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections and rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Of these claims, Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 18 and 19 are presented for examination, and Claims 3-8 and 11-17 stand withdrawn as directed to non-elected species. Claims 1, 3 and 5-19 have been amended. Support for these changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 9 are in independent form.

The drawings (Fig. 2) were objected to on a formal ground. Fig. 2 has been amended accordingly in the corrected formal drawing submitted herewith. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

The Abstract was also objected to on a formal ground, and has been amended accordingly. Withdrawal of this objection is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,084,612 (*Suzuki et al.*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Independent Claim 1 is directed to a tape provided with a base, comprising a tape-like frame member having an electrical wiring, the tape-like frame member including a base provided with elements for generating energy for ejecting a liquid to be used for printing through ejection ports, the base having a first electrode for receiving electrical power supplied to the

elements from a source outside of the base, a conductive layer for forming the electrical wiring, and a tape member for supporting the conductive layer. The tape further comprises a second electrode provided at the base, the second electrode not receiving electricity, a first connecting portion formed of a first portion of the conductive layer, the first connecting portion not being supported by the tape member, and the first connecting portion being conductively bonded to the first electrode, and a second connecting portion formed of a second portion of the conductive layer, the second connecting portion not being supported by the tape member, and the second connecting portion being conductively bonded to the second electrode to which electricity is not supplied. The second connecting portion forms reinforcement portions for reinforcing a junction between the first connecting portion and the first electrode by bonding the second connecting portion to the second electrode.

By virtue of the features of the invention as set forth in Claim 1, the base is more firmly supported, so that the first connecting portion does not easily become deformed.

Suzuki et al. relates to a liquid ejection head, cartridge, printing apparatus and system, and fabrication process of the head. According to the liquid ejection head of *Suzuki et al.*, a plurality of lead terminals 14 are electrically connected to electrode terminals of head chip 12, the tip ends of the lead terminals 14 are extended from the inner periphery of chip end installation hole 13, and a TAB connection portion between the lead terminals 14 and the electrode terminals is covered with a seal resin 16, which is formed over head chip 12 and electrical wiring substrate 11 (see col. 6, lines 54-64). However, Applicant submits that nothing in *Suzuki et al.* would teach or suggest at least a first connecting portion or a second connection portion as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the second connecting portion forms reinforcement

portions for reinforcing a junction between the first connecting portion and a first electrode by bonding the second connecting portion to a second electrode.

Since *Suzuki et al.* does not contain all of the elements of Claim 1, that claim is believed allowable over that reference. Since independent Claim 9 recites features similar or identical to those of Claim 1, Claim 9 is also believed allowable over *Suzuki et al.*.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as a reference against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims presented for examination are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each of these dependent claims is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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